

LABOR MEN IN FIGHT

Conflict Is Between Union and Nonunion Men.

THREE OF THEM ARRESTED

Origin of Trouble Seems Shrouded in Mystery, as Combatants Make Conflicting Statements—Facts May Be Brought Out in Police Court This Morning if Accused Appear.

George Bacon, Ernest Carter, and John Ferguson were arrested yesterday afternoon on a charge of engaging in an affray, and each was released on the deposit of \$10 collateral.

This marks the first police record which is a direct result of the present labor crisis in the building trades. This is the first time there has been any trouble of a serious nature or any brawling of any sort, and it is unusual in this city.

Bacon is a member of the Plasterers' Union, and Carter and Ferguson are non-union plasterers brought here by the Employers' Association. The direct cause of the trouble is unknown, but the three men, it is said, engaged in a fight on the street in front of the building, at 1228 G street, which is being remodeled by the Spier Company, one of the builders who declared for the open shop. Bacon and his opponents make conflicting statements, and the true nature of the disturbance will not be known until it is aired in court this morning. It seems, however, that Bacon visited the building on business in connection with his union. How he became embroiled with the non-union men is not known. He alleges that they made the assault, and they allege that he started the trouble.

Employers Witness Brawl.

The fighting was witnessed by Secretary Hall and several members of the Employers' Association, from their office windows. Manager Richardson and several others went to the station house to make charges against Bacon, but, owing to the fact that all three men were charged with participating, Lieut. Hartley told them they would have to procure a warrant from the prosecuting attorney in the Police Court if they wished to prosecute the case any further.

Mr. Richardson also reimbursed his men for the amount of collateral they were compelled to furnish. Bacon, and his friends in the union, have also announced their intention of preferring charges of assault against Ferguson and Carter.

Ferguson is a Scotchman and Carter an Englishman, but Ferguson's conversation is more free from accent than his mates.

Number of the participants was seriously hurt, although Bacon was badly beaten about the face.

One Strike Reported.

The only strike reported yesterday was on a building being erected by H. B. Sanford, near Twenty-third street and Massachusetts avenue northwest. Six carpenters stopped work.

All day the representatives of the building trades were scouring the city searching for trouble. No meeting was held yesterday, but the strike committee will assemble at 9 o'clock this morning, and it is said to prosecute the strike to the end.

Secretary Hall of the Employers' Association, stated that owing to the influx of nonunion men work on all buildings was being started up, and would be pushed as rapidly as possible. This is particularly true of the Academy of Music, he said, where three shifts will be put on if necessary. Mr. Hall also said that his association could and would to-day and to-morrow secure all the nonunion bricklayers and stonemasons its members could use. He said that he had been told that he had been made to get men of these crafts.

W. F. DOWNEY IS SCORED.

Labor Union Delegates Assail Employers' Association Official.

William F. Downey was scored at a meeting of the Central Labor Union last night by Sam De Nedrey and other members, following a motion of Frank McKenna that a committee be appointed to write upon him and obtain a copy of a letter said to have been written at the instigation of the Employers' Association, and which, as published, contained a number of what were termed uncomplimentary allusions to organized labor. Mr. McKenna said that Mr. Downey has stated that he was misquoted in the letter as it appeared in the press, and suggested that he be given an opportunity to present the entire text of the communication to the Central Labor Union. This was opposed by Mr. De Nedrey on the ground that it was not the business of the organization to aid in extracting Mr. Downey from an embarrassing position in which he found himself by affiliating with the Employers' Association.

The motion was defeated.

A letter was read from Rev. Charles D. Stehle, head of the labor movement of the Presbyterian Church, stating that he has written to 11,000 Presbyterian ministers requesting that on the Sunday preceding Labor Day they preach a sermon dealing with labor questions. Mr. Stehle requested the co-operation of the Central Labor Union in the movement by assuring large congregations on that day. The letter was referred to the fraternal delegate of the Presbyterian Ministerial Association.

Union report of Columbia Lodge of Machinists that the machinists are not receiving a half holiday on Saturday, a committee, consisting of E. L. Adams, P. J. Ryan, and James McHugh was appointed to confer with the Commissioners with regard to the matter.

NO STRIKE AT OYSTER BAY.

President's Wires Reported to Be Working Smoothly.

Oyster Bay, Aug. 12.—The telephone service to and from the President's summer home is little affected by the strike of the telegraphers of the two big companies, and no trouble is expected. There are three wires running from the executive offices at Oyster Bay. Two of these are practically direct wires to Washington, one connecting with the White House and the other with the executive offices there. These wires run through New York, but are operated on each end by government operators.

The third wire runs to New York, and is used as a sort of collecting wire for all messages for the President which are sent out to Washington. This New York wire is not of commission to-night, but its incapacity does not hamper the service greatly, since the Washington wires are all right. The telegraphers in the local office at Oyster Bay have not yet been called out. The executive office can communicate directly with New York by telephone.

SUMMER COLDS.

Only one LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Remember full name. E. W. Grove on box. 20c.

KEY MEN OUT.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

What They Say of the Strike

"We are getting on splendidly, although it is true we have only ten men, where we usually have seventy, but in spite of that, work is going on as usual. We hope the other men will return to work tomorrow."—John D. Prosser, manager of the Postal Telegraph Company.

"We have enough men to carry on business, and to receive and deliver messages, subject to delay, of course. It is immaterial how many men we have, but we can continue to do business."—W. H. Young, night manager Western Union offices.

"Three of our men quit, but so far as our general news service is concerned, we can continue business as usual. We have connections with Chicago, New York, Atlanta, and all points east of Atlanta."—Night manager Associated Press.

"The calls from newspaper men, trying to get news out of Washington, has almost taxed our resources, and these calls have made an immense increase in our business."—Manager Porter, of the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company.

"All commercial wires and news service wires are practically disabled. I do not know the number of men out, but we believe there will be but one or two men at work in Washington tomorrow. We expect this strike-up to be complete until we have gained our demands."—President A. S. Groves, of the Washington Local, Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America.

the union, which was in itself 92 per cent strong. He says the men will remain out until their demands are met. He says the union is out in its entirety, and that not a man or woman of the day force of the Western Union will go to work this morning, and that none of the branch offices will be in operation.

The effect on the branch offices could not be ascertained last night, as they are all day offices, but in view of the statements made by the union officials, they will not be in operation to-day.

It was claimed that the night offices on Connecticut avenue, and at the Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio depots had gone out.

Night Manager Emory, of the Associated Press, however, claimed that the office was in good shape, and that only three men had gone out, and that wires to New York and Chicago, the big relay points, were working, and also the wires throughout the Southern division, east of and including Atlanta. He also stated that a full force would be at work to-day.

Headquarters Established.

Temporary strike headquarters were established last night at the Columbia Hotel, and after the first excitement subsided, the men all gathered there. There were fully 100 of them. It was said that they wished to keep off the streets and create as little excitement and trouble as possible. There was a general discussion of the situation and the prospects.

Permanent headquarters will be established as soon as possible, and pickets put at the offices and depots, and other arrangements made for a long siege.

The strike was also made effective last night in the local office offices. One of the principal offices affected was that at the New Willard.

Newspaper correspondents, who have been depending upon the local commercial offices for filing their matter, and who have no leased wires, are, as one of them expressed it last night, "up against the wall." Some of them have papers on the Pacific Coast and cannot even establish telephonic communication.

Chairman O'Keefe and G. W. McEntee, of the executive committee of the local, who directed the Western Union walk-out, they being employed there, stated last night that everything had been cleaned up in good shape; that all the men were out, but before leaving their keys they had cleared up the messes on their wires and marked off their numbers. They even went so far as to notify Manager Young that they were going to call the men out.

RUSH MADE ON TELEPHONE.

Newspaper Correspondents Have Strenuous Time Reaching Papers.

The Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company did a land office business last night as the result of the strike.

Practically every newspaper correspondent in Washington used the telephone to send news to his paper, and the result was that the toll boards were so busy that, in a number of cases, it took several hours to get calls through.

The company had anticipated, in a measure, the flood of business that would be turned loose upon it, and every effort was made to facilitate the newsgatherers in their work.

Many of the New York newspapers were unable to get word from the South, and they were compelled to rely on what their Washington correspondents could learn over the long distance telephones. The news, in fact, was filed on the bureau wires in Washington, and thus sent on to New York.

Some of the Western correspondents were fortunate enough to get matter through Western Union wires, but although the office here was well fixed to handle news in many towns, there were no facilities for receiving messages.

The strike does not affect the wires operated as leased wires by newspapers, and the operators are paid by the publishers of the newspapers, and those publishers having such wires were flooded with requests to send messages, but as a general thing the operators refused to handle anything but the general business of the newspapers, and in no instance would they take any sort of commercial messages.

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is a wonderful, healing, electric generator. Electricity generated from a common water faucet, sufficient for effective treatment of many diseases. Rheumatism, nervousness, &c., cured. Arouses circulation, stimulates the system, and gives no obligation to purchase. PRICE, \$12.

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Only one LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Remember full name. E. W. Grove on box. 20c.

NO PEACE IN SIGHT

Chicago Operators and Companies Declare for War.

ARBITRATION GIVEN QUIETUS

Telegraphers Repudiate Measures Contributed by Ralph L. M. Easley. Western Union Flatly Refuses to Submit to Negotiations—Labor Leaders Gather for Conference.

Chicago, Aug. 12.—Arbitration of the telegraphers' strike, an attempt to arrange which was made yesterday, received a quietus to-day both from the men and from the Western Union Telegraph Company.

The Chicago operators repudiated the peace measures, which were a sort of symposium affair contributed to by Ralph L. M. Easley, chairman of the executive committee of the National Civic Federation; United States Commissioner of Labor Charles P. Neill, President S. J. Small, of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, and President Gompers, of the American Federation of Labor.

General Superintendent T. P. Cook, of the Western Union, issued a statement in which he said flatly that there would be no arbitration.

General Secretary Wesley Russell, of the union, issued a bulletin to striking locals in which he told them to stand fast and described their fight as won. This was the situation that confronted Messrs. Neill, Easley, and Gompers when they arrived in Chicago to-day in the role of peacemakers. Mr. Easley, who on Sunday tried to induce the New York operators to remain at work, awaiting developments, until Thursday, and then hurried to a Chicago train, arrived, to be greeted by Chicago union officials rejoicing over the news received a moment before that the New York Western Union operators had gone out.

Conference of War.

President Small and other members of the executive board are due in Chicago Wednesday night, to hold a conference of war, following which, prevailing sentiment at headquarters said, a general strike surely would be called.

Mr. Easley and Commissioner Neill were seen at their apartments in the Great Northern Hotel. Mr. Easley, who was alone at the beginning of the interview, said that he and Commissioner Neill had had a meeting with President Gompers during the morning, following which Mr. Neill had gone to the Chicago headquarters of his department in the Federal Building.

"I can say nothing. It is for him to do the talking," said Mr. Easley. At that minute Commissioner Neill entered the room. He said: "I will make no statement with regard to the strike."

Conflicting statements were contained in the interviews and bulletins that came thick and fast from both sides to the controversy. The company officials say that they are turning away applicants for positions, and are handling business as usual. Secretary Russell says that, notwithstanding reports, no strike-breakers have been brought in, and that Chicago is tied up.

Trouble in Brokers' Offices.

Trouble began in brokers' offices when the men were required to handle Western Union Telegraph Company market quotations. In the course of the day the leased wire operators working for brokers, packers, and press associations made demands for higher wages, independently and privately, on their respective firms, following a vote taken by them yesterday.

It was said several brokers and associations signed up. Late this afternoon the broker firms of Bartlett, Frazer & Carrington and Sydney C. Love & Co., two of the biggest in the city, came out in active support of the operators. First, they signed a new agreement with the men in their own offices, granting their request for higher wages, and granting them the closed shop.

Then they summoned several of the most important brokers in La Salle street to attend a meeting later to discuss getting the things on the same proposition to prevent the spread of the strike to their offices.

Stock Market Weakened.

"The market has weakened very much under the conditions brought about by the strike," said Secretary W. W. Wrenn, of the stock exchange. "The quotations at the opening of the exchange this morning are so low that they are panicky. Look at these (and he pointed to several quotations). They have fallen off from 1 to 5 points, and in some cases, 8 to 10. The difficulty comes in the inability of customers to place orders and thus get into the market, as they would normally."

As the stock exchange deals with all the large brokerage houses in the city, the tone of Mr. Wrenn's statement reflects the general conditions which the brokers are facing.

On the floor of the exchange quotations were coming over a long private wire, and as the prices were placed on the board, murmurs as to the unfavorable conditions of the market were heard on every side.

"We are suffering heavily from the strike," said President Sager, of the Board of Trade. "While the board will not take sides, and refuses to mix up in the trouble between the operators and the companies, we shall watch the progress of the proposed peace conference with the greatest interest, and we hope that if the negotiations are entered into in a friendly, fair way, a just settlement will be reached."

No Operators in Wheat Pit.

The wires leading from the wheat pit are without operators, as they were Saturday. The greatest uncertainty is felt on the board of trade and the stock exchange, and the former is keeping exactly out of the trouble owing to the difficulties which it had with the companies over the recent rise in the telegraph rates.

Two great systems of railroads are threatened because of the use of the railroad wires in commercial transmission of messages. Secretary Russell was notified that the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad was sending commercial messages from the Milwaukee office of the road.

E. J. Cassidy, an official of the telegraphers' union, notified President Perkins, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, that the operators in the employ of the system would take a vote on joining the commercial men.

The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad, through its superintendent of telegraph, has issued an order that commercial business be accepted for transmission over the wires controlled by the company. Thus the effects of the strike are reaching into the district in which 40,000 union operators hold contracts with the railroad companies of the nation.

Gompers for Arbitration. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, favors arbitration as a means of ending the telegraphers' strike. Shortly after arriv-

ing in Chicago he held a long conference with former United States Senator William E. Mason.

It is supposed that Gompers asked the former Senator if he would act as the third and impartial arbitrator in the event that both the companies and the operators are willing to submit their differences to arbitration. While President Gompers refused to disclose the plans he has in mind, it is reported that if his ideas are adopted, one arbitrator representing the telegraphers, one for the companies, and a third man having an impartial view will be chosen.

Gompers declares he did not come to Chicago for the purpose of acting in the interests of the operators, but that inasmuch as he is in the city, he will do all in his power to bring about a settlement.

OPERATORS FORCE STRIKE.

Refuse to Heed Advice of Union Officials to Delay Action.

Employees in the Postal Telegraph offices first circulated their petition requesting a strike Saturday evening. This was signed by practically every employee in the office, and finally submitted to President Groves.

It seems that that official, pending the meeting which had then been called for Sunday afternoon, disapproved of the idea of the men going out at once, and so informed the employees in that office, where International Vice President Beattie is employed.

After that, the employees, including the women, were enthusiastic about striking, but they decided to wait until after the Sunday meeting.

This was done, and yesterday morning all of them returned to work as usual. When the trouble came up in the morning about the operators working with non-union men on the Southern wires, the flame for striking was fanned. All wanted to go out, and a petition to President Groves, asking him to declare a strike at once, was circulated. A number of the operators refused to sign, for the reason that they believed it was illegal, and suggested to those who were circulating the petition that they wait until the executive committee had been heard from.

Finally, at the urgent request of the operators in the operating room, Mr. Beattie sent a man to the executive committee, then holding a meeting in the Columbia Hotel which had been called during the day, as the result of the clash of the operators in the Postal office, to see what had been done.

The agent returned in a short time and reported that the committee was in favor of waiting until Wednesday before going out on a strike. This report did not suit the frame of mind of the employees in the office, and Beattie jumped to his feet and asked all who were in favor of going out on a strike at once to respond. There was a unanimous chorus of "aye," and the men and women put on their hats and coats and left the office without further ado.

This action was not wholly approved by some of the older members of the union, who had been in the employ of the company for many years. They contended that the matter should be left in the hands of the officials of the local and national union. That these officials believed that the strike should be delayed until such time as the men could be systematically organized was evidenced by the report of the executive committee asking for a delay.

Many of the men who went out did not believe the time yet ripe, but as one old operator expressed it, "We must help the young fellows get what we have never had," and there was no complaint when the decision was made to leave the Postal company's offices.

RAILROADS NOT IN DANGER

Union Officials Say Their Wiremen Are Not to Be Called.

Only When Commercial Companies Try to Use Roads' Wires Will Trouble Reach Latter.

According to the officials of the local union, there is little chance that the telegraphers' strike will have any effect on the movement of trains. They do not believe there will be an interference with the telegraphers employed by the railroad companies, and as long as these operators stay at their posts, the trains will be operated without delay.

At a meeting of the local telegraphers' union some weeks ago, President Perham, of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, was present, and made a speech, in which he pledged to the commercial operators the support of his organization so far as it lay within his power.

The only possible way, however, for a strike of the Order of Railway Telegraphers to be called at the present time, would be for the commercial companies, against whom the operators are striking, to attempt to use the railroad wires for commercial business.

The plans to guard against this was explained by President Perham at the meeting in question, as follows:

"If it is learned by the members of the union that any telegrapher on the railroads is sending commercial messages, the president of the union will be notified. He in turn will take the matter up with the superintendent of the division on which the telegrapher in question is employed, and ask the railroad company to discharge the telegrapher in question."

"The event this requires is refused, the president of the union will demand that every man on the division walk out, and if there is any opposition on the part of the railroad company he is empowered to call out every telegrapher working for the railroad."

Members of the local union say that this is practically an affiliation of the two bodies, and that they feel they will be given enough support by the Order of Railway Telegraphers that there will be no possibility of breaking the present strike by using the railroad wires.

BACON CONSULTS ROOT.

Assistant Goes to New York to Confer with Secretary of State.

Assistant Secretary Bacon, of the State Department, went to New York yesterday for a conference with Secretary Root, regarding State Department matters. Secretary Root is expected to go to New York from his country home, Clinton.

Mr. Bacon intends to take a vacation of three weeks, but will return to Washington before Secretary Root leaves here for Mexico, September 25. During Mr. Bacon's absence Assistant Secretary Adee will be in charge of the department.

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STRIKE EMBRACES ENTIRE COUNTRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE.

of the men who had remained loyal in the two main offices and the larger branches throughout the city.

The union men had announced that only 125 of a force of 500 had remained in the Western Union main office, and that 90 per cent of all the Postal Company's forces, both in the main office and in the Broad street branch, had joined in the walkout.

The figures advanced by the companies, which were furnished by the various managers of the operating rooms, showed a wide variance with the union census.

"Not more than 40 per cent of the entire working force quits on the signal of the whistles," said Belvidere Brooks, general superintendent of the Eastern division. "There were in round numbers, 20 telegraphers that struck. In the operating room on the seventh floor, seventy-six men remained at their stations. On the eighth floor sixty-five operators continued to take messages over the wires. At the time that the whistles were blown a number of the staff were at lunch. When these returned and were notified that a strike had been called forty-two of them announced that they would remain at work."

Hurt in Financial District.

The Western Union was hardest hit at their branch office in the financial district, at 15 Broad street. There cablemen and commercial telegraphers work in the same building. Of the ninety Morse operators in that building, sixty-five walked out as soon as the call for the strike was flashed to them from the central office, on Broadway.

In the smaller branch offices throughout the financial district, and in all of the up-town branch offices, almost without exception, the operators stuck to their jobs. None of the cable men in the Anglo-American, the Western Union, or the United States direct-cable offices, all of which are more or less directly a part of the Western Union system, was affected by the walk-out.

The cable operators, Mr. Brooks explained, are not Morse telegraphers, and they have no alliance with the union that has gone on a strike.

At 3 o'clock, an hour and a half after the strike, there were 20 operators, men and women, in the main operating rooms of the Western Union at 155 Broadway. The general manager said that 125 more were expected to arrive from up-town offices and near-by country points by 5 o'clock. Mr. Brooks said that before the night force was due to go on there would be 500 operators in the central office, a number larger than was required to run the business.

Postal Not Prepared.

The Postal Company was in no way as well prepared for the walk-out as the Western Union, because until its men suddenly went out in Chicago Friday afternoon there had been no warning given of the imminence of a strike. At 3 o'clock Vice President Charles Adams and General Manager E. J. Nally gave out the figures of the Postal loss in operators.

At the time of the walk-out, at 2:30, there were 170 operators at work on the top floor of the Postal Building. All quit their keys except thirty-five men and women. In the branch office on Broad street the proportion of employees quitting their jobs was about the same. Few of the branch offices were crippled by the strike.

The Postal officers said that immediately after the walk-out thirty-two officials and clerks in the building who were able to man the keys were put at the telegraphers' desks by the strikers. Between 6 o'clock to-night and 6 o'clock to-morrow morning there would be 115 strike-breakers at the keys, said Mr. Adams. In the meantime the company hoped to keep the press of business down by bringing operators from most of the 132 branch offices in Greater New York down to the central office.

No Trouble at Cable Office.

The Postal Company had no trouble at their cable office, 20 Broad street. All of the cable operators, like those on the Western Union cables, remained at their keys.

None of the regular commercial telegraphers quit the Broad street branch, but four operators quit their keys at the Commercial Exchange.

Late to-night Vice President Adams, of the Postal, reported that though most of the night force had gone out with the strikers, he had secured enough men in the operating room to duplicate the number of union men who had deserted. There were ninety-five operators in the main operating room, sixteen of these being chief operators who were taking their tricks at the key.

The Postal Company suffered heavier than the Western Union in the first hour following the strike, because the offices of the former concern were more closely unionized than the Western Union has ever been in New York. Postal officials said to-day that per cent of their telegraphers were union men, and as consequence the walk-out left that company practically stripped of operators.

Three Specific Causes.

At the office of the New York Local, No. 16, Commercial Telegraphers' Union, Daniel M. Russell, chairman of the local's board of strategy, and President Ahearn named the three specific causes which led to the walk-out of the men from the Western Union.

One was the remark attributed by some of the papers to Superintendent Barclay that the nine discharged telegraphers, whose reinstatement the union has been seeking, were let out for drunkenness.

A second immediate cause of aggravation, so the union officials explained, was the fact that when the telegraphers went to work at the Western Union central operating room to-day they found twelve special policemen stationed there. That was an insult they could not brook.

The third and most grievous offense against the union was that in this morning's papers the companies advertised for strike-breakers, heedless of the warning embodied in a motion passed at the meeting of the local on Sunday.

Belvidere Brooks, general manager of the Eastern division of the Western Union, announced shortly after 9 o'clock to-night that during the three hours previous 25 operators out of 200 had left their keys at the Broad street office, Philadelphia, 151 out of 191 in Building, 13 out of 61 in Washington, and 7 out of 33 in Pittsburgh.

Full Quota at Work.

Mr. Brooks said that the full night quota of men, which numbers 300, were at work in the main office at 155 Broadway to-night.

"Generally speaking, though," continued Mr. Brooks, "we're plugging along about as usual. The business is being handled with very little delay."

A large crowd of strike sympathizers gathered outside the Western Union office shortly after dusk. Acting Capt. Harry Nugent, of the Church street station, sent around several policemen, and lookers were kept on the go.

The men appeared in good humor until shortly after 9 o'clock, when two women operators who had been working in the building during the day appeared at the Broadway entrance of the building. A coach drove up to take them home. Despite the police, the crowd surged in upon them, hooting and hissing. Then the cry of "Scab" and "Hussy" was raised. The women succeeded in getting into the carriage and were driven away.

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WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A moderate depression has moved eastward to the St. Lawrence Valley in the last twenty-four hours, and has caused southerly winds and high temperatures throughout the Middle Atlantic States. It has been situated thus far by very little precipitation. The rainfall in the other parts of the country was very light and widely scattered. Showers fell in Eastern Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, and Arkansas. The eastward movement of an area of high pressure